

WHAT'S INSIDE

Operations Support Squadron earns six command awards

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OF INTEREST

17 inducted into highest enlisted rank

The Robins Air Force Base Chiefs' Group is scheduled to welcome 17 new chief master sergeants into the Air Force's highest enlisted rank during an annual Chiefs' Induction ceremony, March 8.

The ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m and will be held at the Museum of Aviation.

The official welcoming is carried out through a ceremony that embraces time-honored traditions. The ceremony is limited to distinguished guests, Chiefs' Group members, and the inductee's guests.

In the late 1950's, The U.S. Air Force introduced a new super enlisted grade to replace its warrant officers in the U.S. Air Force. This top enlisted grade came to be titled as "chief master sergeant."

The word chief means, "one who is highest in rank or authority."

The word master means, "a teacher or mentor."

The word sergeant means, "any of several ranks of noncommissioned officers, appointed to a rank conferring leadership."

In the 1970's, The U.S. Air Force chief master sergeants adopted the American Indian chief as their symbol.

The Indian chief is the highest member of the tribe. The chief is also a teacher or mentor to the warriors of the tribe. The chief – an elder – was looked on for leadership.

The U.S. Air Force today only promotes one percent of its enlisted force to the rank of chief master sergeant. Today's chief must be a teacher and mentor, and is looked on for leadership of the enlisted force.

Natural disaster exercise planned

Today the base is scheduled to exercise its capability to respond to a natural disaster emergency.

This will include testing base sirens producing a 3- to 5- minute steady tone. All personnel should react as directed by their chain of command.

An emergency response team consisting of the Fire Department, Security Forces, and Medical Group will respond first.

The exercise is a vital part of the overall readiness training at Robins. The following is a reminder of what to do in case of a natural disaster emergency: Remain calm; stay indoors; if outside, seek shelter; follow guidance given by emergency response personnel or your unit readiness office.

If you have any questions, please contact the Civil Engineer Readiness office at 926-5820 ext. 219 or ext. 221.

INTEGRITY FIRST, SERVICE BEFORE SELF, EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO

ROBINS

RevUp

Vol. 48 No. 8

Friday, February 28, 2003

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Rick Cowan
Senior Airman Melissa Lawrence, 78th Medical Group, draws blood from a 116th ACW member prior to last month's deployment.

JSTARS gets the word

116th Air Control Wing Office of Public Affairs

The 116th Air Control Wing received a second order to deploy personnel, cargo and E-8C Joint STARS aircraft to an undisclosed forward operating location to support Central Command's theatre operations. The 116th ACW received its first deployment order last month.

"The United States is repositioning some of its military forces where required to support the president's Global War on Terrorism and to prepare for future contingencies as directed," said Lt. Col. John LaBuda, 116th ACW spokesperson.

The 116th ACW is the only unit equipped with the E-8C aircraft, more commonly known as Joint STARS.

The E-8C Joint STARS mission provides air and land component commanders with a near real time ground battlefield picture. The 116th ACW is an Air National Guard unit, and is also the first "Total Force" unit in the U.S. Air Force, combining Air National Guard and active duty members in one wing.



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp



“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

The Black Heritage Observance Committee hosted a luncheon at the Enlisted Club Feb. 19. As part of the program, Alphonso Thomas, left, played music on his saxophone. Music was also provided by Sharon Kornegay. Below, Thurbert E. Baker, attorney general for the state of Georgia, provided the keynote address to a packed house.

Historic aircraft to be displayed at Museum of Aviation

By Lanorris Askew
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Soon the Robins Air Force Base Museum of Aviation will add yet another piece of Air Force history to its ever expanding inventory.

This new piece of history will come in the form of an EC-135, whose cargo has included such famed generals as Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, former Commander-in-Chief, Central Command and most recently Gen. Tommy R. Franks, Commander in Chief, United States Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

"Anytime that you can have

a living history - and that's what this is with all of the different generals who were on this airplane - it adds so much to what we do at the museum," said Paul Hibbitts, museum director.

Hibbitts said although the exact date the aircraft will be officially deactivated is uncertain, he hopes it is soon.

"We're looking forward to getting the go ahead so we can start working to get the plane prepared and down to the museum," he said.

The aircraft arrived at Robins Feb.19 with a crew of 13 operators and maintainers from MacDill Air Force Base. Once on the ground, Hibbitts

and other museum personnel were given a tour by 2nd Lt. Jay Caldwell, officer in charge of the special airlift mission support flight.

Caldwell presented Hibbitts and Darwin Edwards, a museum curator, with commemorative coins and other memorabilia from the plane's historic past.

The EC-135's mission - known as the Looking Glass mission - began more than 40 years ago with the task of being an airborne nuclear command post.

In the event the Strategic Air Command, now U.S.

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U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

A crewmember walks away from the EC-135 used by such notable generals as Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf and Gen. Tommy R. Franks. The aircraft is scheduled for display at the Museum of Aviation.

Operation Youth reaches out to at-risk kids

By Lanorris Askew
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Embracing the community's youth and sharing the possibilities of a bright future are two goals of Operation Youth.

Brig. Gen. Larry Stevenson, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center vice commander and the program's initiator and driving force, believes deeply in the program's tenets of reaching out to at-risk students to let them see what possibilities the future could hold for them.

Stevenson said the idea for the program was born while he was stationed in San Antonio, Texas, as commander of the 12th Flying Training Wing at Randolph AFB.

"We had a recruiting problem," he said. "We just couldn't get enough recruits to fill the Air Force's needs."

The dilemma sparked an idea within Stevenson that would affect hundreds of children in the San Antonio area, and ultimately here in Houston County.

Stevenson said when he started to think about



U. S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Brig. Gen. Larry Stevenson, right, presents a \$1,500 check to Capt. Bill Holt for Operation Youth.

the large number of underprivileged children who lived in San Antonio, he realized many of them did not have dreams or aspirations that included the freedom, honor and opportunity of a military career. He wondered how many of those children had any knowledge about or exposure to the Air Force base, its mission or some of the opportuni-

ties that could be open to them.

The idea took root and grew into Operation Youth, which Stevenson attests, was a success in both planting seeds of dreams in children and increasing the pool of young people who might consider a military career.

Shortly after his arrival at Robins, Stevenson decided to implement the program here, standing it up about a year ago. His plan was to bring about 50 children to the base each month and give them an overview briefing, followed by a tour of the base and lunch hosted by Stevenson.

"We are looking at school districts with children who are at risk," he said. "They have less hope than other children, so we are trying to give them a spark or plant a seed in their future. They could possibly join the Air Force or at least know that opportunities like that are available to them."

How's it being received?

"The reaction has been fantastic," he reports. "Children from all over the Houston County area come out to the base to see what we do and how we do it. They really enjoy themselves."

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Two Robins spouses take top honors

Being a military spouse has its demands. Because of that, each of the Air Force’s nine major commands bestows awards to honor the contributions made by spouses. Remarkably, spouses from Robins Air Force Base – Bonnie Pearson and Tammie Bocook – have garnered two of the nine command-level awards. Spouses are nominated for this recognition by their military partners first at the base level.

Bocook is AFMC’s top choice

By Holly J. Logan
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Tammie L. Bocook, Robins Air Force Base Spouse of the Year 2002, was recently named as the Air Force Materiel Command’s number one choice for both the Joan Orr and Connie Yates Spouse of the Year 2002 Awards. Bocook, wife of Master Sgt. Ray Bocook, flight chief for the Airman Leadership School at Robins, said the news of her recent awards came as a complete surprise. “I was very proud that I would even be nominated for the AFMC awards,” she said. “This is such a blessing from God. It was an honor to represent Robins at the AFMC level, but to be selected to represent AFMC at the Air Force level is a feeling that is hard to put into words.” The 34-year-old mother of three said she doesn’t view her accomplishments as anything more than fulfilling her role as a supportive military wife, but her husband of 16 years sees her contributions to the Air Force and community as remarkable. “This was one of the easiest awards packages I’ve ever written,” Master Sgt. Bocook said. “Tammie organizes so many events. People see that we work well together. We’re not only a family, we’re a team.” Bocook said from day one, his wife has been an

integral part of the success of his Air Force career, and he is honored that AFMC recognizes her value to the Air Force family as well. “Tammie and I had a conversation once where I explained to her that the more stripes I earn, the more work I’ll have to do,” he said. “She said, ‘OK, I’ll help you.’ She has been a woman of her word over the years.” Master Sgt. Bocook said his wife’s involvement in actively supporting Air Force activities began at the couple’s first assignment at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio and she continues contributing her time and energy to the career field her husband serves. “With Tammie’s involvement in Air Force activities over the last 18 years, it was only natural for her to volunteer at Robins Air Force Base,” he said. The dedicated volunteer has routinely contributed extra hours without charge to help military and civilian families in crisis, helped five families through counseling and spiritual training in her role as a leader in her church’s mentoring program, among many other activities and events that carry her fingerprints. Bocook’s devotion to helping others is evident in her career field, as well. The Xenia, Ohio native has worked as a teacher at



Tammie L. Bocook with her husband Master Sgt. Ray Bocook.

Central Baptist Church’s Sonshine Preschool for the past two years. Previously, she worked at Trinity Methodist Preschool. Although Bocook would prefer to remain behind the scenes, her sacrifice and loyalty to the affairs of her husband’s profession have been noticed and recognized by many. Lt. Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett, 78th Mission Support Squadron commander, said Bocook has been a tremendous asset not only to her unit, but also to the entire Robins Air Force Base community. “Tammie has been a God-send,” she said. “She has actively supported any and all events that the Airman Leadership School has undertaken. Her award is well deserved. She and her husband make a phenomenal couple.”



Tammie Bocook works with Melanie Wood and Austin Ameriel. Bocook is a teacher at the Sonshine Preschool at Central Baptist Church.

Two JSTARS members win ACC navigation awards

By Airman 1st Class Tim Beckham
116th ACW Public Affairs

Two Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System crewmembers recently won the Air Combat Command’s nomination for the annual Institute of Navigation Awards for 2002. Lt. Col. Chris Canada, 116th Air Control Wing Plans and Programs deputy director, and Maj. Michael Connelly, 12th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, will represent the wing and ACC at the Air Force-level awards banquet June 24-26 in Albuquerque, N.M. Canada claimed the Norman P. Hays Award and

Connelly won the P.V.H. Weems Award. The Norman P. Hays Award recognizes individuals engaged in management in military service, federal government or private industry, and recognizes outstanding encouragement, inspiration and support contributing to the advancement of navigation. The P.V.H. Weems Award recognizes continuous individual contributions to the advancement of navigation over a long period of time. Canada, who is a navigator and a defensive systems officer on the Joint STARS aircraft, said it felt great to win and that he was happy to see other people from the wing nominated.

The colonel said he’s in charge of getting the plane from point A to B on time and keeping an eye on ground and air base threats, which may prevent them from completing the mission. During his career, Canada has flown more than 5,000 hours, twice earned an outstanding performance rating and has flown in more than 240 worldwide operational reconnaissance missions. “I have been lucky enough to have my hand in many of the wing’s missions,” said Canada. “I am just proud to be representing ACC and the first Total Force wing in this worldwide competition.”



Bonnie Pearson with her husband Capt. Tim Pearson.

5th MOB spouse is command’s best

By Staff Sgt. Adam Stump
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A spouse from the 5th Combat Communications Group recently garnered the group, 9th Air Force and Air Combat Command Joan Orr Spouse of the Year Awards. Bonnie Pearson, wife of Capt. Tim Pearson, is the leader of the 51st Combat Communications Squadron spouses’ group. She has been married to her husband – whom she met through a mutual friend in college – for eight years and has two daughters. Over the course of 2002, she “quickly learned responsibilities and excelled in her leadership role,” said Maj. Jeff Holified, 51st commanding officer. Pearson was cited for a long list of accomplishments, including: ● Creating a spouses’ e-mail group to quickly distribute information ● Publishing a monthly newsletter for spouses to disseminate important announcements and upcoming squadron events ● Serving as the master of ceremonies to teach new base spouses how the Air Force works and their role in fulfilling the Air Force mission ● Organizing, packing and sending shipments of care packages to deployed airmen ● Delivering Christmas cookies to dorm residents Pearson, a native of Venus, Pa., took over leadership of the squadron’s spouse’s group after the previous commander and his wife left. She said her reason was to help out both spouses and the unit. “I did see a need for a spouses-support system in this unit, especially with the high deployment rate issue. I wanted to be a liaison for the spouses who had no connection with the unit and its staff,” she said. “Being assigned to this unit is a difficult thing, so I just hope I can make being a member of the spouses’ community here easier for them.” Pearson knows first-hand about being separated. During her first year here, her husband was gone more than 200 days. She said although the high rate of deployment and having to make friends every few years is difficult,

she accepts it because she’s proud of being associated with the military. “I’m just filled with so much pride for all that my husband and his friends do for us all,” she said. “The folks we’ve been associated with here at the 5th are definitely top-notch friends. The military isn’t just a job, it’s a family to us.” Bonnie’s husband said she was deserving of the award. “What makes Bonnie the spouse of the year to me, is that she meets every challenge head-on and worries more about other people than herself,” the captain said. “She ensured that she was at every departure of 51st personnel deploying to let them know that she personally cares and will be there to keep their spouses informed and taken care of while they are gone.” The captain added her work allows airmen from his squadron and himself to perform their wartime mission. “Bonnie steps in to fill all roles in our family while I am gone, and allows me to focus on the mission,” he said. “She not only takes care of our daughters, our house and our finances while I’m gone, but she also watches over all the unit spouses and helps ensure that their spouses – my troops – can focus on their jobs. “She is also my ‘pen pal’ while I am deployed, keeping my spirits high and always providing the support I need to get through any situation,” he added. “Together, we make an unbeatable team and I could not do the things I do without her support.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Adam Stump
Bonnie Pearson is the leader of the 51st Combat Communications Squadron spouse's group.

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Students arrive by bus at the Museum of Aviation where he gives them a 15- to 20-minute briefing in the museum’s theater. Stevenson said they see a lot of “gee whiz” fast-paced videos of planes and support personnel to get them fired up about being here. “We want this to be exciting to them and don’t want them to see this as just another field trip,” he said. Once the briefing is over, the children are broken up into groups and taken to various areas of the base. Those areas range from Security Forces, where they see a military working dog demonstration, to the flightline, where they learn how planes are rebuilt. Stevenson said future tours to other parts of the base are open and can be easily added or deleted. “We are flexible,” he said. “Now that the word is getting out, a lot of schools are requesting a trip.” Some principals have come along with their students. “Operation Youth was a wonderful experience for the students that I took from the Crossroads Center,” said Randall P. Hinson, Houston County Crossroads Center principal. “It was both informational and inspirational. “We were treated extremely well and

taken on an exciting tour of the base. The students at my school were very appreciative and overwhelmed by the generosity showed them on our trip.” “Operation Youth is a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn about the base and its contribution to our community,” said Beth Burris, Community and School Affairs director for the Houston County Board of Education. “We appreciate General Stevenson’s enthusiasm and commitment to this program.” Stevenson, who retires next week after 30 years in the Air Force, said proceeds from his farewell golf tournament will assist with the program going forward. “We raised about \$1,500 for the Operation Youth lunch program,” he said. “The money will be used to buy meals and cover other expenses and purchases for the kids.” Stevenson said the program is a success if the ideals behind it stay with the kids after they leave Robins. “If they are deeply impressed by seeing something different in their lives than what they imagined the world to be like, and if they remember that, they will also see that these kinds of things are available to them in the future. “Whether they remember the uniforms or the technology, the airplanes or the teamwork in the maintenance area, Operation Youth is a success if it’s that kind of an eye-opening experience.”

Message for motorists

■ Slow down, cut the cell phones and pay attention

By Chris Zdrakas
78th Air Base Wing

The 78th Security Forces Squadron’s operations officer and the 78th Air Base Wing safety manager have a message for motorists: Slow down, put your cell phones away and pay attention.

Capt. Michelle Stringer, operations officer, and Carl Wilkins, wing safety manager, share a guiding conviction about road safety – even one accident is one too many.

“A little common sense goes a long way in preventing accidents,” Wilkins said. “And common sense dictates that operating a moving vehicle requires a 100 percent effort. Driving while tinkering with a cell phone, CD player or other controls all contribute to making the accident statistics go up.”

Stringer and Wilkins keep close tabs on accidents – their locations, causes and costs in terms of human suffering and financial loss. According to both, inattentive driving and speed cause the most accidents.

Last year, Robins had 391 accidents. This year, Robins has had 42 accidents, nine of which are classified as major, to date. Major means damages total more than \$10,000 or disable a vehicle.

Stringer cited six common driving scenarios that are accidents waiting to happen:

- Rolling through the stop sign because the driver doesn’t see traffic coming
- Tailgating the car in front because their speed is “too slow” – consistent with the speed limit
- Gunning the engine and buzzing the gate to catch the light heading off base
- Cutting between pedestrians in crosswalks
- Flying through parking lots to get to a meeting on time
- Crossing center lines because of a distracting cell phone call

“Driving like that is just not safe for the driver and passengers or the rest of us who share the roads and crosswalks,” Stringer said.

She said police patrols conduct random selective enforcement throughout the base, but “we can’t be in all



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Cutting between pedestrians in crosswalks is one of the six common driving scenarios Capt. Michelle Stringer, 78th Security Forces Squadron operations officer, cited as accidents waiting to happen.

places at all times. We need everyone’s cooperation. “We’ve learned when conducting our selective enforcement,” she said, “(that) as hard as we try to enforce the laws, we will not be successful without drivers being mindful of traffic laws on the roadways, parking lots, pedestrian crossings – simply everywhere people travel.”

Stringer offered this quick review of speed limits in what she termed “some hot spots:”

- 30 mph on base roadways unless otherwise posted
- 20 mph in base housing; 10 mph when children are present
- 20 mph in front of the medical facility
- 15 mph when exiting through base gates
- 10 mph in parking lots and loading areas unless otherwise posted
- 10 mph on Warner Robins Street when school is in session
- 5 mph when backing up; speedometers don’t work in reverse – move slowly and cautiously.

According to Wilkins’ analysis of accident locations, the base exchange parking lot and the Russel Parkway Gate (Gate 14

)were the most frequent accident sites last year. Twenty-one accidents occurred at the base exchange and 87 at Gate 14. Other areas to watch are

intersections, especially those at Robins Parkway and Martin Luther King, which has eight accidents each year, and 10th Street and Robins Parkway, which had

six. Security Forces issued 1,806 citations for moving violations last year, nearly half of them (902) for speeding. Predictably, most

“A little common sense goes a long way in preventing accidents.”

Carl Wilkins,
78th Air Base Wing safety manager

offenses resulting in citations occur when people are entering or leaving the base – before and after work and lunch times.

“The bottom line today and every day should be safety,” Stringer said. “We can all be lulled into another world while riding in our smooth-riding cars with our premium sound systems playing in the background. For these and other reasons, we need to be very conscious of what we’re doing behind the wheel.

“None of us want to have a bad day by getting a ticket or having an accident. Please help keep the roadways of Robins safe by adhering to posted speed limits and rules of the road.

“If you don’t, it’s only a matter of time before you meet one of us up close on the side of the road – or in a worse scenario,” she said.

“And one final word,” Wilkins added, “Buckle up. There is absolutely no excuse for anyone not to.”

For more information, contact the Security Forces’ Police Services Section at 926-2118.

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116th ACW – ready when called

By **Col. Tom Lynn**
116 Air Control Wing commander

It has been more than three months since the ceremonial blending of the former 93rd Air Control Wing and the 116th Bomb Wing into the 116th Air Control Wing. As America's first Total Force wing, and the only wing with the Joint STARS mission, it is the first time active duty and Air Guard personnel have been placed under one command structure. We are on the leading edge of transformation, and the lessons learned from our experience will not only prove that the concept works, but will be the model for Future Total Force units to follow. What the men and women of the 116th Air Control Wing are doing today is nothing short of remarkable. In three short months, the active duty and Air Guard cultures have come together with one common goal – increasing

the overall effectiveness of the Joint STARS mission. Old paradigms are changing, barriers are being broken down and misconceptions are being removed. As time goes on, my goal is to continue this evolutionary process until you can't tell the difference between Title 10 and Title 32 in the 116th ACW. We recently deployed aircraft, cargo, and personnel to the USCENTCOM theater of operations as part of the President's continuing Global War on Terrorism. This was again another first



Col. Tom Lynn

for the Total Force concept, as the members of the deployment were from both active duty and Air Guard backgrounds. When we deployed, we deployed as the 116th ACW, a group of professionals, ready when we were called. As more of our prior 116th Bomb Wing personnel complete JSTARS training, they will become a larger percentage of the personnel that deploy on a regular basis. This will be the beginning of better stability and predictability for all members of the 116th. We are still discovering the enormous synergies that can be realized as we combine the core competencies of the Active Duty personnel and the Air National Guard component. This will not be an overnight success story; but rather one of evolving excellence and shared visions. Even though we are working with different personnel systems; every member of the 116th Air Control Wing is a dedicated professional and patriot - committed to mission support and organizational excellence.

Helping children to cope with deployment

by **Capt (Dr.) Tim Sheahan**
379th Air Expeditionary Wing

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (AFPN) – Deployments are often very stressful for the people left behind. Those affected most may be the deployed member's children. Changes seen in children can be distressing for both the stateside and deployed parent, as well as the child struggling with the parent's departure. The most important information for concerned parents is that their child's response to the deployment, while distressing, is normal. Children cannot respond to change the way adults do, and are unlikely to say "Daddy, I'm sad Mommy's gone, and scared she won't come back." Here are some common scenarios and helpful information. When Mommy deploys, the child may "cling" to Dad. The child may act afraid to go to school, become upset if Dad is out of sight, or may want to sleep in the same bed. This may suggest the child is afraid that since Mommy left, Dad may also. Dad must reassure the child and spend time with him or her. Dad must assure the child he is not going anywhere, and that Mommy is coming home as soon as possible. Another common scenario is to have an "angelic" child become a disobedient "monster." A drop in grades may occur, as may acting out (hitting others, biting, breaking rules, etc). These are the child's tests to see how much of his or her life has changed. Something like "Hmmm... Mommy is gone, I wonder if the rules have changed

about what I can do." This is not malicious or manipulative, but born of uncertainty. Consistent discipline is crucial. Mommy isn't there, but the rules and consequences that exist to keep the child safe have not changed. This will provide a sense of comfort and consistency. If you are deployed, here are some general tips to help your child cope with your absence: Keep in touch! Both parents should work hard to send letters, videos, pictures, back and forth. A letter written from you to your child in its own envelope is invaluable towards making him or her feel special. Be liberal with "I love you." The stay-at-home parent should keep your picture in a prominent place. He or she should ask the child about any feelings regarding the deployed parent being absent. Let the child know all feelings are OK. Get a copy of your child's favorite book, read it on an audio tape, and mail it home. The stay-at-home parent should plan special outings regularly. The stay-at-home parent should keep in touch with teachers to monitor behavior and performance at school. Many bases have programs available for family members of deployed personnel. Call the family support center. Conduct an Internet search for "children" and "deployment." You'll find a wealth of material. As tough as life may be for the deployed member, we tend to forget how our families can be affected. Managing your own stress is very important, but we must commit to easing the stress of those too young to do it for themselves.

Diversity makes us strong

By **Lt. Col. Charles Hunt**
Military Equal Opportunity commander

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFMCSN) -- As we reflect on recent world events, it's easy to understand how diversity is the thread that binds us together and makes our country the world's only remaining superpower. But we didn't get here overnight; it has taken much education and experience for us to realize we are stronger because of our diversity. As we begin a new cycle of special observance months, we're reminded to focus on diversity and how different cultures have made us stronger. In the months ahead we will have many opportunities to broaden our knowledge of various groups of people and their accomplishments. Diversity is "otherness," or those human qualities that are different from our own and outside the groups to which we belong, yet are present in other individuals and groups. Primary dimensions of diversity such as age, ethnicity, gender and race are easily recognized as the qualities that form the foundation of our society. The secondary dimensions of diversity, however, such as educational background, geographic location, income, marital status, military experience, religious

beliefs and work experiences provide the glue that unites us as a people and a nation. Our military is a diverse group of people, trained in a variety of skills and dedicated to a strong work ethic. We are proud of the fact that for generations America's armed forces have led the way in promoting diversity. Embracing our diverse culture challenges us to understand why different holidays, religions, values or languages make us feel threatened, create stereotypes and build walls between us. It basically means looking at the world, and our actions, from another person's perspective. Diversity management presents challenges for everyone in the workplace. In today's Air Force, we must be educated about our differences and be effective change agents. We must recognize that valuing diversity is critical to strengthening our effectiveness as a cohesive fighting force. An unsupportive or adverse work environment can deter people from performing to their potential. Valuing the input of all members encourages productivity and creativity, and also fosters teamwork, which enhances mission effectiveness. Former Secretary of the Air Force Sheila Widnall said, "Diversity is also a recruiting and retention issue. If we're known as an organization that treats all individuals fairly, if our reputation is to value each member's contribution, then more people will want to join the military. "The more applicants we have, the more choosy we can be about who gets in. Along the same lines, service members who are valued and challenged are less likely to leave the service. Since they remain in the military longer, they increase our overall experience and keep us from having to recruit and train higher numbers of new members." Her words hold just as true for today's military, and from that perspective, it's easy to see that valuing diversity makes for a stronger fighting force. Reflecting on the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, it's imperative we resolve our differences and embrace the culture we live in. Internal disputes over human relations issues only erode our efforts to unite and defend the nation. The month of January kicked off another year facing challenges together while continuing to recognize and celebrate the differences that make us strong. Let's take the time to recognize and celebrate the monumental achievements of each ethnic group through the special observance program beginning in February with Black History Month.

Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live. Please remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes. To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 day or night, or for quickest response e-mail to one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins



Commanders' Action Line

Col. Tom Smoot, Jr.
Commander,
78th Air Base Wing

Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam
Commander,
Warner Robins
Air Logistics Center



Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account (AOL, AT+T, CompuServe, Earthlink, etc.), use action.line@robins.af.mil. Readers can also access Action Line by visiting the Robins AFB homepage at [https:// www.mil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm](https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm). Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response. Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Rev-Up. Anonymous Action Lines will not be processed.

Voice mail problems addressed

I transferred to a new job on Jan. 27. I called the 78th CS/SCX to have the password reset so I could access voice mail and administer greetings. I was told to fill out AF Form 3215 and send it in. The form was signed, submitted and faxed on Feb.3. I have made numerous phone calls and sent e-mails requesting action and no one seems to know what to do. I would appreciate any help you can give me in speeding this

process along. Thanks.

Col. Smoot replies: The current process requires the submittal of an Air Force Form 3215 to 78th CS/SCX for voice mail changes. Once SCX receives a 3215, it is entered into the 78th CS's tracking system and sent to the Telephone Services shop. Telephone maintenance, including voice mail changes, is contracted out, so a work order is cut for the contractor. Your Telephone Control Officer will be notified of the assigned CSO number. Voice mail requirements are usually sent to the telephone

maintenance contractor on the same day they are received. Once the contractor has the work order, they contractually have 10 working days to complete the work, but they often finish in two to three days. Delays may occur due to the number of 3215s received each day and the priority of other workload. Once the contractor has completed the work, the customer receives notification by email. If you have an open work order, your TCO can check the status of the CSO number by contacting the Telephone Services shop at 926-9969. Your TCO should be your primary point of contact for all your telephone needs. Thanks for giving us the chance to explain this process.



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AIRCRAFT

Continued from Page A-1

Strategic Command, underground Command Center was destroyed or became disabled, Looking Glass would take over.

In fact, the term “Looking Glass” refers to the EC-135's ability to mirror all the capabilities of that command center.

Caldwell said that although the aircraft has not yet been officially retired, a ceremonial retirement was held the morning of Feb. 19 at MacDill.

He said the aircraft is still in the Air Force inventory and awaiting disposition from Air Force Headquarters.

Caldwell has been in charge of

maintaining the aircraft for the past two years and said he has become very attached to the aircraft and those who maintain it.

“Saying goodbye is depressing because you get the opportunity to work with such professional people in the kind of mission this plane does,” he said. “It's sad to see it go because it's sad to see the mission go.”

On Sept. 25, 1998, the EC-135 aircraft handed over its Looking Glass mission of command, control, and communications of the nation's strategic nuclear forces to the Navy's E-6B “Take Charge and Move Out” aircraft.

“The Air Force originally took possession of the plane in Nov. 1961,” said Caldwell. “It flew

reconnaissance for Patrick Air Force Base for the Apollo flights then was used as a test bed for communications until U.S. Central Command took the mission in 1982.”

“Our unit is dispersing into the KC-135R model flights, and will be absorbed into the squadrons,” said Caldwell.

Others aboard the final flight were also sad to say goodbye to their longtime friend.

“We had talked about the mission ending for a long time, but we never thought it would really happen,” said Lt. Col. Judd Bean, EC-135 Master Navigator.

“This has been a very reliable airplane, and it performed beautifully again today. We've had about

a 98 percent mission success rate, and it did it again today so now it's 98.1 percent. We will miss her.”

Staff Sgt. Steve McIntosh echoed Bean's sentiments.

“I'm going to miss her,” he said. “She has been a very good plane - very reliable. I went all over the world with her, and she got me everywhere safe and sound. It's like losing an old friend.”

McIntosh said another sad thing is that with this plane going away it's going to break up his flight.



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp
2nd Lt. Jay Caldwell sits in the seat once occupied by Gen. Norman Schwartzkopf

“It's a small group of us, and we are very close,” he said.

“Now we will be going to new jobs. Besides losing the aircraft, we will be breaking up our family.”

Hibbitts said when the aircraft has been released, the restoration staff at the museum will get a plan together that will include towing the plane right down Highway 247 and into the museum grounds.

Please recycle this newspaper



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp
Darwin Edwards and Paul Hibbitts, left, accept memorabilia associated with the aircraft from Tech Sgt. Chris White, center, and 2nd. Lt. Jay Caldwell. The EC-135 along with the memorabilia may become permanent fixtures at the Museum of Aviation in the near future.

CHILDRENS’ DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Can your child's habits harm their teeth?

By Dr. Justine Tompkins
78th Dental Squadron

Many children nowadays suck on thumbs, fingers, pacifiers and other objects.

This is completely normal for babies and young children, as it is a form of security and a way for babies to make contact with the world.

In fact, it is known that babies begin sucking on their fingers or thumbs even before they are born. However, some children develop these habits as a form of compensation, because they need comfort. Perhaps they feel insecure about something, sense conflict in the home, are afraid of the dark or are saddened by separated parents.

Whatever the case, they develop a non-nutritive sucking habit.

Most dentists agree that although no sucking habit is recommended, a pacifier habit is often the easiest to break.

Many people wonder if thumbsucking and pacifier habits will be harmful for a child's teeth or jaws.

Usually, most children stop their sucking habits on their own between two and four years of age – at which point no harm is usually done.

However, if the child is still sucking their finger, thumb, pacifier or other object when the permanent front teeth are ready to come in, then it's time to worry. Children who have sucking habits for long periods of time will likely develop a dental malocclusion – their upper front teeth may tip outward toward the lip or not come in properly.

Also, sometimes the teeth

may develop in a “crossbite” or “openbite,” or the palate may not develop properly.

Remember, it's very important for your child to have regular dental care.

In addition to making sure your child's mouth is cavity free, your child's dentist can also perform preventive services.

One such service is by carefully watching the way your child's teeth come in and the way the jaws develop.

As mentioned before, most children stop sucking habits on their own. Some things you can do to try to help them quit is to give them adequate rest and play outlets, as well as emotional support.

Also try tying a string to their finger, dipping the pacifier in salt, cutting off

part of the tip each week, or simply throwing it away after 6 months of age.

However, if your child has not yet stopped their habit by five years of age, your child's dentist can try to encourage the child to stop by talking about what could happen to the teeth. This usually helps most children quit. If this approach doesn't work, the child's dentist may recommend a corrective appliance to block the habit.

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CloseUp

Friday, February 28, 2003

Rev-Up B-1

‘Your mission is **OUR** mission’

Operations Support Squadron earns
six command awards

By Chris Zdrakas
78th Air Base Wing

The 78th Operations Support Squadron’s awards record the past two years tells a story of excellence that speaks for itself – six Air Force Materiel Command awards this year, seven command awards and one Air Force award last year.

WHAT’S BEHIND THE RECORD?

“We strive to be the best each and every day,” said Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Timothy Arch. “This organization stays focused, stays busy and is always looking for better ways to accomplish the mission. Our customers come first, a direction we underscore with the squadron’s motto – ‘Your mission is our mission.’”

The squadron is responsible for runway and airfield operations management, air traffic control, weather support and flight records and deploys worldwide to support combat and contingency operations.

Three of this year’s awards – announced last week – were for airfield operations and three for weather:

● **Airfield Operations Flight**



Tech Sgt. Duane Oram, standing, was named Air Traffic Control Watch Supervisor of the Year.

Complex of the Year for the second straight year

● **Air Traffic Control
Watch Supervisor of the Year –
Tech. Sgt. Duane Oram**

● **Airfield Management
Journeyman/Technician of the
Year – Willie Williams**

● **Grisham Award,
Outstanding Weather company
Grade Officer – Capt. Michael
Lewis**

● **Gardner Award,
Outstanding Weather Senior
Noncommissioned Officer –
Master Sgt. Jasper Harris**

● **Dodson Award,
Outstanding Weather Airman –
Senior Airman Timothy Henry**

AIRFIELD OPERATIONS FLIGHT

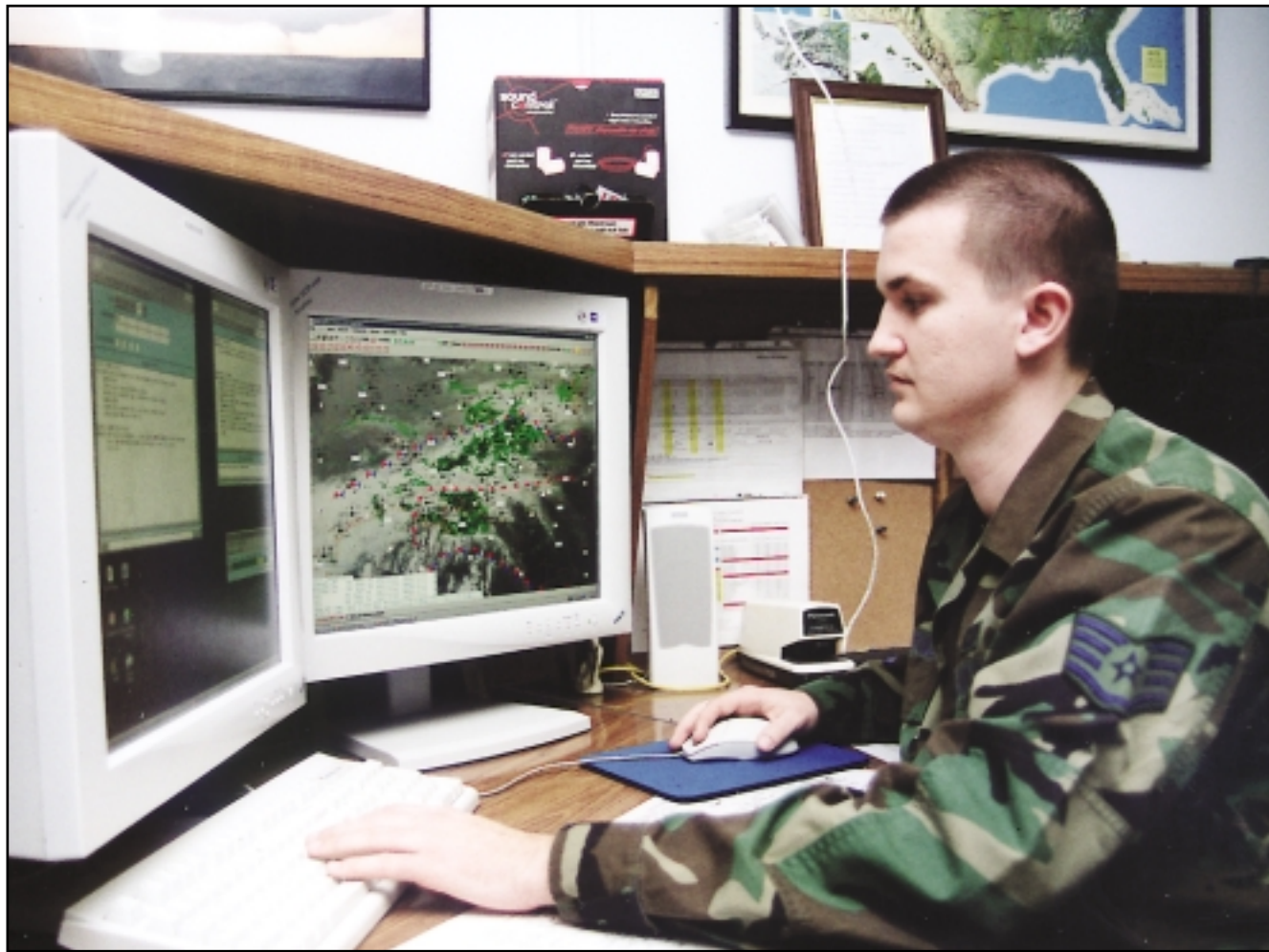
Recognized for its responsiveness to customer needs, the flight established local procedures in several areas that have made Robins a standard for other bases, Arch said.

In addition, the flight was first in the Air Force to complete the seven levels of air traffic controller upgrade, exceeding the Air Force goal of 11 months with an average score of 93 percent.

The flight’s ability to support 24-hour operations have made it the “go to” location for other bases in the Southern region. And its leadership of a team effort to plan for 10 major airfield construction projects valued at more than \$13.5 million ensures its position in airfield predominance for the future.

TECH. SGT. DUANE ORAM

Described as an “outstanding watch supervi-



Staff Sgt. Daniel Montville, a combat weather team forecaster, sits at a forecasting station. The flight took honors in three weather categories this year.

sor,” Oram is known for sound judgment in crisis situations. He is credited with providing the guidance and traffic alter preventing a mid-air collision between a KC-135 and two civilian aircraft that had taken off from an uncontrolled airport.

Among other achievements, Oram spent 50 off-duty hours educating himself in computer networking.

He established a tower network of 24 computers and printers, updated 11 operating systems and installed 476 security updates, setting a foundation for future data system access and security.

WILLIE WILLIAMS

An air traffic control specialist, Williams managed the base’s extensive flight line driver’s familiarization program, providing training and guidance for 30 flight line training managers. The extensive flight line dri-

ving test he developed is behind reducing the number of flight line incidents by 75 percent.

His innovative web page provides customers current information on airfield status and constructions, links to aircrew products, electronic publications and aircrew questionnaires.

CAPT. MICHAEL LEWIS

Lewis, whose Weather Flight provides the base with tailored, accurate weather support to meet a variety of customer needs, said he is proud of both the flight and his award winners.

He said in his estimation, Robins has “the best Weather Flight in the Air Force.”

Lewis was cited for displaying excellence during a recent deployment to support Operation Enduring Freedom, fulfilling a tasking shortfalled by another unit.

Preparing the flight for mobility commitments, he developed a training program which 100 percent of flight members have taken to prepare them for deployments. His stamp of excellence is visible on other training programs, briefings and flight improvements.

MASTER SGT. JASPER HARRIS

Harris is weather superintendent who took charge of the flight during

the commander’s three-month deployment.

He managed 24-hour meteorological services, exploiting teamwork and masterfully scheduling personnel despite absorbing a 70 percent deployment rate.

As a member of the Robins Exercise Evaluation Team, he scripted the weather portion of the exercise and became the driving force behind the base plan to test response to tornadoes.

His expertise came into play in seasonal weather safety briefings he tailored for all Robins flying units.

He has earned the Senior NCO of the Quarter Award twice in 2002, winning out over seven other highly polished senior NCOs.

SENIOR AIRMAN TIMOTHY HENRY

Henry is a combat weather team forecaster and is described as his flight’s “number one airman.”

In more than 65 mission execution forecasts for pilots, he achieved a 100 percent error-free rate.

He took the initiative and volunteered to organize the flight’s equipment and storage room, increasing its available space by 20 percent.

In addition, Henry contributed to high-profile Air Force missions in America’s war on terror during extended deployments supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Southern Watch.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS BY ED ASPERA



Capt. Michael Lewis, left, won the Grisham award for outstanding weather company grade officer. Here, Master Sgt. Jasper Harris, who won the Gardner Award for outstanding weather senior noncommissioned officer, points out a weather front on the Doppler Weather Radar station.

TV SCHEDULE



Friday

Robins Report: 8 p.m. – News from around base.

Around Robins: 8:30 p.m. – This week's show highlights the Spouses'

Night Out Dinner held Valentines day by the Family Readiness Team in partnership with the Houston-Middle Georgia American Red Cross. There will also be a nutrition tip with Lindy Kurtz. Parent University 2003, held at Robins Elementary school Sponsored by Robins Family Advocacy Program and Robins Elementary School and other community Partners is also featured.

Inside Robins: 9 p.m. – This week's show highlights Robins Petroleum Office.

Sunday

1:30 p.m. - **Robins Report**

2 p.m. - **Around Robins**

2:30 p.m. - **Inside Robins**

Monday

Noon - **Robins Report**

12:30 p.m. - **Around Robins**

Robins

1 p.m. - **Inside Robins**



MOVIE SCHEDULE

Tickets are \$3 for 12 and older, \$2 for ages 5-11.

Visit the movie schedule online at <http://www.robins.af.mil/services/Events/TheaterSched.htm>.

Friday, 7:30 p.m. – A Guy Thing – Jason Lee, Julia Stiles

Paul tells a teensy lie, which turns into a bigger lie. From his bachelor party to the wedding, soon his lies are spiraling out of control. It's amazing how much can change because of one little thing.

Rated PG-13 (language, crude humor, some sexual content, drug references) 101 min

Saturday, 2 p.m. – Kangaroo Jack - Jerry O'Connell, Anthony Anderson

Two friends from Brooklyn are forced to deliver mob money to Australia. When one of them places his red jacket on a kangaroo and the kangaroo bounces off, they realize the mob money is in the jacket and are forced to give chase through the Outback.

Rated PG (language, crude humor, sensuality & minor violence) 94 min

Saturday, 7:30 p.m. – Lord of the Rings, the Two Towers Elijah Wood, Sean Astin

The second in the Tolkien trilogy. Frodo the Hobbit, braves terrible dangers in an attempt to have the evil ring destroyed.

Rated PG-13 (images of violence) 179 min

This Week in history

March 1, 1974 – The oil-producing Arab states officially lifted the “Arab Oil Embargo on the United States. Production had been reduced by 15 percent since late October, 1973.



March 7, 1974 – As the fuel situation worsened in Warner Robins and the surrounding communities, Robins Air Force Base officials announced a plan to encourage more people to use car pools. The plan called for preferential parking for those who car pooled.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic Masses are celebrated at the chapel each Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m., and on Holy Days of Obligation at noon and 5 p.m. and Monday through Friday at noon. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is on Saturday from 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Catholic CCD classes for ages 4 through adult meet every Sunday from 11 a.m. until noon — from September through May — at Robins Elementary School.

Protestant General Services take place every Sunday at 11 a.m. This service includes some traditional and contemporary worship styles in music and in format.

Protestant Contemporary Services take place 11 a.m. each Sunday at the Base Theater. This service is very informal, with a praise team assisting in singing and includes both traditional and contemporary styles of music and worship.

Protestant religious education classes for people of all ages meet every Sunday — from September through May — from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in Bldg. 905.

Jewish service time is each Friday at 6:15 p.m. at the synagogue in Macon.

Islamic Friday Prayer (Jumuah) is each Friday at 1:30 p.m. in the chapel annex Rooms 1 and 2.

The chapel helps with any spiritual needs that arise. For further information, call the chapel at 926-2821.

SERVICES ANNOUNCEMENTS

Base Restaurant 926-6972

Steak day will be moved to Wednesdays beginning Saturday. Get a steak, baked potato, green beans, roll and tea for \$5.50

Child Development Center 926-3080,

Give Parents a Break will be held March 7, from 6:30 - 10 p.m. at CDC East and School Age Program for children six months - 12 years of age. A \$6 non-refundable deposit is required. Cost is \$3 per child per hour. New enrollees must have up-to-date shot records for their children and complete required forms prior to making reservations.

A **Parent Involvement Group** (PIG) meeting will be held at CDC West on March 13 at 4 p.m.

Kite Day will be held March 21 at both CDC East and West at 3 p.m. All parents with children enrolled in the CDC program are invited to attend.

Civilian Recreation 922-4415

Play bingo with Civilian Recreation Sunday, Wednesday & Friday. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games begin at 7 p.m. at the base restaurant, Bldg. 166. Win big money on March 16 during St. Patrick's Bingo with larger payouts and three jackpots for regular prices.

Civilian Recreation will host the 13th Annual DoD Team Bass Tournament to be held March 30 - April 4 at Lake Guntersville, Goose Pond Colony, Scottsboro, Ala. For a two-man team the cost is \$160. For more information, call Civilian Recreation or Hugh Jones, tournament director at 953-9314.

Enlisted Club 926-4515

The dinner special at the **Press Box** this weekend will be shrimp scampi for \$9.95. Two-for-one prime rib is also available every weekend for \$16.95.

The World Boxing Assoc. heavyweight championship between John Ruiz and Roy Jones, Jr., will be aired at the **Enlisted Club** March 1 at 9 p.m. Member cost is \$5 and non-members cost \$10.

Membership night will be held March 19, from 5 - 7 p.m. Members may dine for free. Cost for guests is \$5 and non-members \$10.

Family Child Care 926-6741

In continual support of Operation: Enduring Freedom, the co-payment for Extended Duty Care (EDC) has been extended to April 1. The EDC provides care for children of active duty and Department of Defense employees required to work late, work weekends, change shifts, or are called in to support deployments. It will not be a substitute for regular care, but is an approved intermittent childcare arrangement for those times when parents must work outside their normal schedule. To enroll, parents need a written verification from their supervisors and arrange an interview with an FCC coordinator to discuss childcare needs, provider qualifications and program procedures. For more information, call the FCC office.

Information, Tickets and Travel 926-2945

Tickets are available at ITT for Macon Trax home games. Upper seat tickets are \$6, lower seat cost is \$9 and glass seats are \$12.

Tickets for the NASCAR race March 8 and 9 at Atlanta Motor Speedway are available for \$40 at ITT.

ITT will hold its Third Annual Travel Fair March 5 from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Smith Community Center Ballroom, Bldg. 767. Travel consultants from various vacation destinations will be on hand to answer questions and help with your vacation and travel plans.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

Family Support Center (FSC) sponsored classes, workshops, and seminars are open to all Team Robins personnel and their eligible family members. Absences from duty sections to attend FSC offerings are the responsibility of the employee to coordinate with his/her supervisor. Because room assignments are subject to change, specific room numbers will be confirmed at the time of registration.

For additional information, or to make a reservation, please call 926-1256.

Applied Suicide Skills Training

A workshop on Applied Suicide Skills Training will be conducted on Mar. 5-6, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Base Chapel annex. This training is for anyone interested in preventing a suicide. You don't have to be a commander, first sergeant, supervisor, etc. (although these people are welcome). You just have to be mature and have a "willing" attitude.

Base Tour

The Family Support Center is sponsoring a Base Tour for all Team Robins Plus members and their eligible family members, Mar. 5, 1 - 3 p.m. Meet at the Enlisted Club. The tour is designed to help newcomers become acclimated to the base. To make reservations, call 926-1256.

Interviewing Salary Negotiation Class

An Interviewing Salary Negotiation class will be conducted on Mar. 6, 1:30 - 4 p.m. Bldg. 905, Room 139. The average person looking for employment presumes salary offers are predetermined and not negotiable. Because they may be uncomfortable talking about money, or unsure when or how to do so, the first salary offered is usually accepted. One concept discussed will be how and why inaccurately

New base social event entry measures announced

By Lanorris Askew

Lanorris.Askew@robins.as.mil

New base entry procedures for non-Department of Defense visitors entering the gates for social activities went into effect Feb. 8.

According to Capt. L. Michelle Stringer, 78 Security Forces Squadron Operations officer, anyone bringing six or more guests onto the base must provide a list of those individuals. Four copies of the list in alphabetical order must be given to the Mission Support Group commander two weeks prior to the event.

“The sponsor must have a Department of Defense identification card with escort privileges,” said Stringer. “The list must be hand carried by the sponsor to the Mission Support Group or MSG headquarters, building 215.”

MSG personnel will conduct a face-to-face ID check with the sponsor to confirm valid credentials and escort privileges.

“With our current posture only mission essential functions are to be held on base,” said Stringer. “The Group Commander will decide whether or not your function is mission essential.”

The new entry procedures and the new two-week lead time allow more time to screen the events.

“Having the MSG commander review and approve social events on the base gives the leadership more visibility on what events are taking place,” she said.

The procedures will also help with knowing who is coming on the base, when they are coming on base, and where they will be.

An example would be if a noise disturbance complaint about the lodge area comes in, then SFS personnel would be fully aware there is a social event with 30 people or so being held there.

Guests on these lists can use gates 2, 5, or 14.

“In the long run this will help Robins know who is on the installation and help all of us with force protection concerns,” said Stringer.

Editor's note: For more information, contact security forces at 926-2119

Have you checked your Military Treatment Facility pharmacy lately?

Many military treatment facility pharmacies have upgraded their formularies. As a result, many MTF pharmacies now stock popular medications such as Vioxx and Celebrex, newer antacids such as Aciphex and Prilosec and non-sedating antihistamines like Allegra and Claritin.

Even though the MTF pharmacy may not have stocked your medications in the past, you might want to check back and see if they are carrying them now.

In most cases the MTF formularies, or listings of medications that they carry, are posted online on each MTF's Web site. To access links to all of the MTF Web sites in the TRICARE Southeast and GulfSouth Regions visit www.humana-military.com, click on your region, then select "DoD Resources/MTF Home Pages."

Mail Order Pharmacy Change

The new TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy contract, administered by Express Scripts of Maryland Heights, Mo., will replace the existing National Mail Order Pharmacy contract on or about March 1.

The TMOP will provide a worldwide, full-service mail order pharmacy program to all TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries. The TMOP will offer TRICARE beneficiaries a cost-effective prescription resource that is well-suited to filling prescriptions for maintenance medications that are taken on a regular basis. The TMOP service will be offered in addition to prescription services currently available to TRICARE beneficiaries through military and retail pharmacies.

More information about the new TMOP program will be available soon on the TRICARE Web site at

reflecting your qualifications and value to the employer affects salary offers. This session is designed to assist you in an overview of how to determine your worth and know if the salary is negotiable, including how to and when not to factor in benefits packages. Strategies and tips are provided to assist in overcoming your discomfort and empower applicants in gaining a better salary.

To make a reservation for this workshop, call Ext. 61256.

TAP workshop

The next three-day Department of Labor sponsored Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Workshop is Mar. 10-12, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. each day, Smith Community Center Ballroom. Personnel leaving the military within the next six months need to sign up as soon as possible. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Workshop topics include: Job Search Skills, Resume and Cover Letters, Interviewing Skills, Career Planning, Veterans Benefits, Disabled Veterans Issues, and much more. Reservations are taken on first-come, first-serve basis within the appropriate separation or retirement dates. To make a reservation for this workshop, call ext. 61256. If you register for a session and find you can not attend, contact the Family Support Center to cancel your reservation---there is a waiting list.

Community tour

The Family Support Center is sponsoring a Community Tour for all Team Robins members and their eligible family members, Mar. 12, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Meet at the Family Support Center.

The tour includes a "windshield" of Macon's downtown and residential historic district with commentary on the history of Macon and its people, past and present.

To make reservations, please call 926-1256.



Sports Briefs

Bowling Center 926-2112

A Baker System Tournament will be held March 15 at 6 p.m. at Robins Lanes. Cost is \$36 per team, with any number of players on a team. Call the bowling center for more information or to register.

Wear green and bowl three games for \$4.50 on Saint Patrick's Day at Robins Lanes.

Civilian Recreation 922-4415

Register for spring tennis at civilian recreation, Bldg. 767 for \$10 per person. Single or doubles will be offered. League play begins April 14.

Fitness Center 926-2128

Celebrate the anniversary of Monopoly at the Monopoly Fun Run on March 7 at 11:30 a.m. Call the center to register.

David Magliano will a hold free women's self defense class March 8 from 1 - 2:30 p.m. at the Fitness Center.

A basketball skills competition will be held March 15 at 11 a.m. The competition will be a three-point shoot-out, slam dunk competition and team competition with a co-ed shoot-out. To sign up, call or visit the fitness center.

Golf Course 926-4103

Learn how to play golf correctly with Link Up 2 Golf. A free orientation will be held March 11 -13 at 5:30 p.m. Class cost is \$99 per person and includes four days of instruction, classroom and outdoor instruction, 50 range tokens, free

club rental, four play days and a 10 percent discount in the pro shop.

A Farewell Golf Greens Scramble will be held March 22 with a shotgun start 9 a.m. at Pine Oaks Golf Course. Annual Green Fee players cost is \$25 and guests are \$25.

Robins Lanes 926-2112

Be the sole survivor and win. Bowl a three game 9-pin no tap set for \$6 per week for six weeks. At the end of each of each week the lowest score will be voted out. After six weeks, the last survivor takes all the winnings. A new round begins every six weeks.

Youth Center 926-2110

Spring Softball registration is being accepted through March 1 at the Youth Center. Monday - Friday 3 - 6 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Cost for youth center members is \$45 and non-members are \$55. Please provide a birth certificate and current sports physical.

Juneteenth Midget Classic Tournament

In recognition of Black History Month, the Juneteenth Midget Classic Tournament was held Feb. 21-23 at the Robins Youth Center.

The tournament was comprised of eight Midget Boys teams – four from Robins Air Force Base and four from Warner Robins Recreation Department.

The tournament provided children in the age group the opportunity to compete against each other.

The Warner Robins recreation teams proved to be competitive, advancing through the tournament and placing three teams in the final four.

Championship game: Warner Robins Rec. Bulls 46, Warner Robins Rec. Raptors 37:

K. J. Morton scored 17, with Chris Baker and Demario Black combined for 21 points as the trio led the Bulls undefeated through the tournament. Tevin Lester, Kevin Gifford, Robbey

Godfrey, Brent Holder, Caleb Evans and Brandon Davey contributed with outstanding defense.

Darien Irby scored 20, with Mickey Timmins and W. J. McAllister combining for 13 points. The Raptors posted a 3-2 record with their two losses coming at the hands of the Bulls. Colin Brooks, Briggs Defoor, Tremane Kesler, Milton Ragins, Bryce Strowder, and Bryson Williams contributed with outstanding defense.

Three Point Shootout Champion: Demario Black
Runner-up: Chris Baker, Joshua Gregory

Contact the Rev-Up staff at 926-2137 or by e-mail at

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More than pocket protectors and slide rules

Today's engineers have evolved past the days of pocket protectors and belt-mounted K&E slide rules. Even so, they still enjoy a good awards ceremony. The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Engineering Directorate honored its best and brightest recently with a banquet at the Enlisted Club. Sixteen award winners were announced from among numerous nominations submitted from each product directorate.

Engineering Awards

The 2002 AFMC Civilian and Military Engineer of the year awards recognize technical contributions to the sustainment, testing, and advancement of Air Force weapons systems. The superior performance of all these winners is a credit to the Air Force Materiel Command and the United States Air Force.

The Junior Military Engineer Award was presented to **Capt. Jeffrey D. Kuhn**, Lead Aircraft Battle Damage Repair and Structural Engineer, C-130 System Program Office. **The Mid-Career Military Engineer Award** was presented to **Capt Kevin W. Gilbert**, Lead F-15 Avionics Flight Test Engineer.

The Junior Civilian Engineer Award was presented to **Kristopher Allan Krueger**, Lead Reliability and Maintainability Engineer.

The Mid-Career Civilian Engineer Award was presented to **Gregory Tinney**, a mechanical engineer in the Mechanical Test & Prototype Branch.

The Senior Engineer Award was presented to **Edward M Pratt**, C-130 Aircraft Structural Integrity Program Manager. **The Chief Engineer Award** was presented to **Monica Brady**, Mechanical Engineer. This award recognizes noteworthy application of leadership skills that significantly aided organizational effectiveness and customer satisfaction in systems engineering management or test and evaluation. She provided outstanding engineering support as the systems engineer for bare base systems.

Technical Awards

The following Engineering and Technical Management Awards recognize outstanding contributions or achievements in support of the E&TM community.

The Technical Management Award was presented to **Carolyn W. Fuller**, Joint STARS Software Production Chief Engineer. She provided expert technical leadership to the Joint STARS Software Maintenance Team. Under her technical guidance, the team has exceeded all expectations.

The Technical Management - Team award was presented to the entire **B-1B Defensive System Engineering Team**, **Martin P. Mickalonis**, Chief, B-1B Systems Engineering Section. This team showed extraordinary knowledge and skills in carrying out multiple complex software and hardware efforts in support of the B-1B's electronic warfare system.

The Engineering Technician Award was presented to **William M. Schleicher, Jr.**, Electronics Technician, Flight Test Division. He led landmark test management support for the C-5, C-130, and C-141 fleets, impacting 900 aircraft and over 90 percent of our nation's air mobility assets.

Specialized Awards

The Career Achievement Award recognizes continuous outstanding performance of a federal civilian employee and

was presented to **Crawford A. Battle**, F-15 Senior Lead Structural Engineer. His 48-year Naval and civil service career includes such pioneering efforts as the C-130 Crack Program, accident investigations and incorporating the most modern technologies into the F-15.

The Reservist/Individual Mobilization Augmentee Award was presented to **Capt John S. MacPherson**, F-15 Mechanical System Engineer.

The Support Award was presented to **Albert F. Thompson**, Flexible Acquisition and

Sustainment Tool Lead Engineer. He made significant contributions to the effectiveness of many Air Force weapon systems.

The Director's Award was presented to **David G. Ringley**, Electronics Engineer.

Sponsored Awards

Three of the E&TM awards are individually sponsored. Two are named after previous commanders. The family of a military member killed in action in Vietnam sponsors the third award.

The Gen. James Ferguson Engineering Award was presented to **Mark E. Salyers**, Lead Engineer, Electronic Warfare Management Directorate. He has led several innovative enhancements to a variety of aircraft electronic control and support systems, adding new capability while reducing maintenance and training expense.

The Gen. Bernard P. Randolph Engineering Team Award was presented to the **Precision Attack System Program Office Engineering Team**, led by **Novie White**. This team completed Level

5 requirements of the AFMC Operational Safety, Suitability, and Effectiveness for the LANTIRN weapon system, and significantly contributed to this system achieving almost 90 percent mission capability rate at the close of 2002.

The Capt. Roland R. Obenland Engineering Award was presented to **Capt John C. Armstrong** (LH), Aircraft Battle Damage Repair Engineer. He is first in command for the C-17 Aircraft Battle Damage Repair engineers and a top player in the validation/verification of new battle damage repair procedures.

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Teamwork, attitude earns JSTARS a nod for the 2002 Mackay trophy

by **Airman 1st Class Tim Beckham**
116th ACW Public Affairs

Members of the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System Crew 7 “Stiletto,” won Air Combat Command’s nomination for the 2002 Mackay Trophy for actions taken during a flight over Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom March 12, 2002.

This ACC Field of Aeronautics and Astronautics Award honors those who flew the most meritorious Air Force flights of the year. Crew members will compete at Air Force level.

“On one of our many flights in Afghanistan, circumstances resulted in our crew being the only command and control aircraft in the area during an intense battle of Operation Anaconda,” said Lt. Col. J.D. Henson, chief of standardization and evaluation for the 116th Operations Group. “In addition to performing our usual intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission, our crew also provided close air support coordination for ground troops. They also coordinated more than 100 bomb drops on enemy positions, provided procedural command and control over all tankers in theater, and de-conflicted B-1s, B-52s, Predators, AC-130s, F-16s, F-18s, F-14s, and A-10s for over two and one-half hours.

“Despite several internal aircraft malfunctions,” he continued, “the crew direct-

ed ground support for forces prosecuting a key battle in Afghanistan.”

The E8-C JSTARS aircraft is a platform that conducts wide area surveillance of the battlefield to support location, identification, tracking, disruption and destruction of ground-based targets.

“We ruled the night,” Capt. Tracy Kagarise, an air weapons officer on the air-

“It’s a great honor. Looking at the past recipients of this award, it’s a bit overwhelming to realize that our crew fits into such a category. It is believable, but overwhelming,”

Capt. Tracy Kagarise
air weapons officer

Mackay Trophy nomination puts crew 7 “Stiletto” among the ranks of other great aviators – Chuck Yeager, Eddie Rickenbacker and Hap Arnold.

“It’s a great honor. Looking at the past recipients of this award, it’s a bit overwhelming to realize that our crew fits into such a category. It is believable, but overwhelming,” said Kagarise.

Henson agrees, “I feel extremely fortunate to have been crewed together with such a talented and motivated group of aviators. “In over 10 years of operational reconnaissance flying, I

The members of crew 7 “Stiletto”

Capt. Max Weems, aircraft commander from the 116th Air Control Wing, Lt. Col. John Henson, pilot from the 116th Operations Group, Maj. Stewart Willits, navigator from the 330th Combat Training Squadron, Tech. Sgt. Harry Harter, flight engineer from the 12th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, Lt. Col. Joseph Richardson, mission crew commander from the 330th CTS, Maj. Mark Pierce, sensor management officer from the 330th CTS, Maj. Ronald Godwin Jr., senior director from the 116th OG, Capt. Tracy Kagarise, air weapons officer from the 116th OG, 1st Lt. Shannon Clark, air weapons officer from the 16th ACCS, 1st Lt. Richard Lyttle, airborne intelligence officer from the 16th ACCS, Tech. Sgt. Robert Fernandez, senior director technician from the 16th ACCS, Airman 1st Class Allison Thompson, airborne operations technician from the 16th ACCS, Senior Airman Benjamin Miller, AOT from the 330th CTS, Airman 1st Class Jennifer McClusky, AOT from the 16th ACCS, Staff Sgt. Rochelle Lindert, communication system technician from the 16th ACCS, Senior Airman Clayton Gibbs, CST from the 16th ACCS, Staff Sgt. William Conway, CST from the 330th CTS, Master Sgt. Gregory Taylor, airborne mission system specialist from the 16th ACCS, Tech. Sgt. William Humes IV, AMSS from the Air Combat Command Detachment 7, Army Lt. Col. Daniel Murray, deputy mission crew commander from the Army Group, Army Pfc. Troy Leslie, airborne target surveillance supervisor from the 16th ACCS, Army Staff Sgt. John Leibensperger, ATSS from the 330th CTS, Master Sgt. Bertram Maskiell, flight engineer from the 116th Maintenance Operations Squadron and Lt. Col. Mark Hall, navigator from the 157th Fighter Squadron, South Carolina Air National Guard.

have never been a part of a closer knit, more professional crew.”

Crew members feel they all play individual roles on the JSTARS aircraft, but an award like this comes from absolute teamwork.

“Our crew worked

extremely well together,” said Kagarise.

“Our charisma paired with an attitude that was beyond positive just brought our crew up to a level that’s going to be hard, if not impossible, to achieve again.”

78th ABW promotion ceremony Monday

Col. Marvin T. Smoot, Jr., 78th Air Base Wing Commander, will host the monthly 78th Air Base Wing Enlisted Promotion Ceremony Monday at 3:30 p.m., at the Smith Community Center Auditorium.

Those being recognized will be notified by their respective First Sergeants.

Commanders, supervisors, family members, and friends are encouraged to attend. Show your unit's pride and spirit; come and join us in congratulating our new promotees. For more information, please contact Master Sgt. Mike Stanton or Tech Sgt. John Holderbaugh at 926-0792.

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Let's talk
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Fickling
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Beds & Bedding
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Sun Retail
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Five to receive trainer awards

By **James F Marshall, Jr.**
WRALC/LGMH

Five WR-ALC employees were recently selected to receive “LG Trainer of the Quarter” awards for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2002.

The LG Trainer of the Quarter Award recognizes journeymen who have been instrumental in the successful training and mentoring of item manager, equipment specialist, production manager, or logistics manager trainees assigned to all the Product Directorates.

Trainers are nominated by the trainees and selections are made by a panel composed of representatives from the Product Directorates and chaired by WR-ALC/LGMH.

Winners are awarded with a certificate and either a day off with pay or a cash award.

Steve Seguin, Inventory Manager in the LE Directorate was instrumental in the training of three Inventory Management Specialist (IMS) trainees during the period. Seguin is described by his trainees as the “ultimate” IMS.

He teaches not only the procedures and methods they need to know to perform their duties, but ensures they understand the

reasoning and impact of each task. In addition to those duties, he was hand-picked to brief the MAJCOM IPT on the Buy Budget Process. He is a key member of the Material Munitions Handling Equipment IPT, and assists the area supervisors in screening and correcting Buy Budget Review Folders.

Judy Combs, Inventory Manager in the LE Directorate was responsible for training several Inventory Management Specialists during the period. Combs took the time to review each trainee's D200A computations and offered them one-on-one training in the areas of need. During this period she was also involved with a sole source selection in another area, but came in early and stayed late to make sure all the work was done. Combs’ patience and unselfishness distinguishes her as a top-notch trainer on Robins Air Force Base.

Raul Penaloza, Equipment Specialist in the LE Directorate was involved in training Equipment Specialist trainees in his area during the quarter. He has unselfishly shared his extensive knowledge of the various computer systems and ES needs to be proficient

with to do their jobs. Penaloza has one-on-one training sessions with each of them to explain the various processes and tasks they will need to know as future journeymen level Equipment Specialists.

Terri Sikes, Equipment Specialist in the LE Directorate had a major impact on the trainees in her area this quarter. She provided on-the-job training to them and was flexible as they were away to attend formal training classes. She was able to train others while maintaining her own desk and working on end of the year closeout taskings. Sikes’ work ethic and willingness to assist others makes her deserving of this recognition.

John T Lewis, Logistics Management Specialist for the C-17 in the LH Directorate played a major role in the training of a Logistics Management Specialist trainee during this period.

He not only arranged special training opportunities for the trainee but also included her on TDY trips to give her actual hands on experience. Lewis has always shown great patience and interest in the progress of his trainee and this will benefit her throughout her entire career.

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Troops to Teachers Program Briefing March 12

Bill Kirkland, representative for the Troops to teachers program, will be at the Robins Education Center March 12, Bldg 905, in Room 245, from 10 to 11 a.m. to take questions about the program. No reservations are necessary.

Troops to Teachers is administered by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support, and is headquartered in Pensacola, Fla..

For more information on the Troops to Teachers Program in Georgia, contact Mr. Kirkland at 800-745-0709 toll-free; commercial at 404-657-9055; or by e-mail at bill.kirkland@gapsc.com.

For more information about this briefing, contact Fran Sheridan at the Base Education Office, 327-7325.

Huntington Villa
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Knighty News Briefs

Black Knights intramural basketball schedule

Team #1

March 3 ,7 p.m., 78th LRS
March 10 , 7 p.m., 116th AGS
March 17 , 7 p.m., 5th MOBB #2
March 24 , 7 p.m., 78th CE
April 7 , 9 p.m. , JSTARS #1
April 23 , 6 p.m., 78th MDG
May 5 , 7 p.m., 12th ACCS
May 12 , 9 p.m., 78th SFS #1
May 21 , 8 p.m., 653rd CLSS

Team #2

March 3 , 6 p.m., 116th MXS
March 10 , 6 p.m., 653rd CLSS
March 17 , 6 p.m., 5th MOBB #1
March 31 , 8 p.m., JSTARS #2
April 8 , 6 p.m., 116th CSS
April 16 , 7 p.m., 78th CS
April 28 , 6 p.m., 78th MSS
May 5 , 8 p.m., 78th SFS #2
May 14 , 6 p.m., 78th LRS
May 21 , 7 p.m., 5th MOBB #2

19th ARG Spouses Group updating roster

The 19th ARG Spouses Group is in the process of updating its Spouse's Social & Support Roster.

The group is asking that all spouses fill out an information form by Wednesday.

With the current high ops tempo and future deployments a possibility, the list is designed to help spouses stay in touch with each other and plan future spouse events.

Air Force policy dictates that the group have written permission to include information on the roster.

The information sheet will be maintained by the 19th OSS and 99th ARS squadron commanders' spouses.

The information forms can be turned in to the orderly rooms at the squadrons.

If you require additional information, contact Leslie Smith at 953-3523, or Sharen Sprague at 218-7785.

News brief Submission guidelines

Anyone who is interested in submitting news briefs or story ideas to the Knightly News can contact Geoff Janes or Holly Logan by e-mail at geoff.janes@robins.af.mil or holly.logan@robins.af.mil.

Since space is limited, briefs will be printed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Stories that are timely can also be submitted to the Robins Rev-Up, the base newspaper. For more information, call 926-2137.

STEPin' up

■ Two 19th ARG airmen receive Stripes for Exceptional Performers promotions

Office of Public Affairs

Two members of the 19th Air Refueling Group were recently surprised with a promotion to Master Sergeant.

Master Sgt. Greg Porter, 19th Maintenance Squadron production supervisor, received his Stripes for Exceptional Performers Feb. 12.

19th Air Refueling Group Commander, Col. Barbara Faulkenberry, and 19th ARG Superintendent, Chief Master Sgt. Steven Hartley presented Porter with his promotion.

Porter distinguished himself as a C-5 program supervisor, leading 70 maintainers conducting isochronal inspections and field-level repairs on Air Mobility Command C-5 aircraft undergoing Program Depot Maintenance at Robins.

Porter managed the resolution of more than 1,700 discrepancies per aircraft, while working on non-interference basis with Programmed Depot Maintenance personnel.

Master Sgt. Mihae Brown can also show off the new stripes she received Jan. 30.

Brown is Superintendent of Group Information Management. She is on the group commander's staff and takes care of administrative matters.

According to Faulkenberry, information managers aren't often in the limelight, but are critical to the group's global mobility mission.

The STEP program supplements existing airman promotion programs, and is designed to accommodate unique circumstances that in the commander's judgment, clearly warrant promotion.

STEP promotions are to grades Staff Sergeant, Tech. Sergeant, and Master Sergeant. Promotion is effective immediately upon receipt of the stripes.

A minimum of 12 months time in grade is required for STEP promotions from Tech. Sergeant to Master Sergeant, and six months time in grade is required for STEP promotions to Staff Sergeant. An individ-



Above – Master Sgt. Greg Porter receives his Stripes for Exceptional Performers from Col Barbara Faulkenberry, 19th Air Refueling Group Commander and Chief Master Sgt. Steven Hartley, 19th Air Refueling Group Superintendent. At right – Master Sgt. Mihae Brown shows off the new stripes she received Jan. 30. Brown is Superintendent of Group Information Management.

ual must complete Airmen Leadership School or the Noncommissioned Officer Preparatory course before being considered for STEP promotion to Staff Sergeant and attend the resident Non-Commissioned Officer Academy before being considered for STEP promotion to Master Sergeant.



Initiative and hard work pay off

■ AMC Inspector General awards “Excellent” rating to 19th ARG for UCI

By Holly J. Logan
holly.logan@robins.af.mil

Cheers rang out from 120 Black Knights in a briefing at Coats Hall, as Brig. Gen. (select) Thomas Stickford, Air Mobility Command Inspector General, announced that the 19th Air Refueling Group earned an overall grade of “Excellent” for its Unit Compliance Inspection.

The group earned the grade of “Excellent” in the areas of intelligence oversight, personnel, and aircrew protection. Black Knights received an “outstanding” rating on their communication and information section and self-inspection. Supply, and Plans and Programs, received a satisfactory rating. Team recognition was awarded to the unit deployment monitors for their efforts and compliance.

Along with the group's grade of excellence, Tech. Sgt. David D. Dawson, Tech. Sgt. Timothy J.

Miller, Tech. Sgt. Franklin Barghese, Staff Sgt. Ronald Beasley, and Staff Sgt. Victor Ware III were presented AMC Inspector General Coins for their outstanding work in the group.

UCI occurs every three years in order to evaluate the unit's accomplishment of the 19th ARG mission, and this year, the group came out on top.

“I'm proud of the performance of the Black Knights, and pleased with this ‘Excellent’ UCI evaluation,” Col. Barbara Faulkenberry, 19th Air Refueling Group commander said. “Compliance with regulations directly leads to safely accomplishing our worldwide mobility mission.”

Faulkenberry added that while there are some areas where the group needs improvement, there are others that deserve commendation.

“There was more focus on the administrative aspects of the group during this UCI,” she said. “I'm very pleased with our overall performance. If we can hold on to this grade of “Excellent,” we will continue our success.”

Stickford agreed with Faulkenberry, and said although the group did not earn a grade of “Excellent” in all areas, they should be proud of their achievements.

“I'm proud of the performance of the Black Knights, and pleased with this ‘Excellent’ UCI evaluation. Compliance with regulations directly leads to safely accomplishing our worldwide mobility mission..”

Col. Barbara Faulkenberry
19th ARG commander

“This is a chance to show your best, and you did your best,” Stickford said. “It's a tremendous accomplishment to earn such high marks and you all met the challenge. Don't feel bad about the areas that received “satisfactory” rating. I am pleased...and Gen. Handy is pleased with your phenomenal results.” Stickford continued by saying he is appreciative of

the job the Black Knights are performing, and the outcome of the UCI is a testimony to the great work the group is accomplishing.

Col. Ed Sienkiewicz, chief of group inspections office for the 19th ARG, said the group's preparation and execution of the UCI were outstanding.

“The excellent grade we received reflects on the outstanding initiative and hard work the Black Knights team has done,” he said.

Sienkiewicz said without the dedication and leadership of UCI working group members, such as 2nd Lt. Dennis Knight, 2nd Lt. Suzanne Plantec, and other maintenance officers in the group, UCI would not be a success.

Maj. Greg Scheer, executive officer for the 19th ARG, said preparation time for the UCI was time consuming, but with the group's positive ratings, it was worthwhile.

Black Knights come to the rescue

■ Eli Rescue mission proves successful for 19th Air Refueling Group

By Holly J. Logan
holly.logan@robins.af.mil

Eight Black Knights were deployed to support the Counter Drug Tanker Task in Manta, Ecuador, but a fire aboard a small fishing boat, the Eli, Oct. 25 caused a brief detour of plans.

Maj. Ron Dancy, mission commander, Maj. Rob Martin, pilot, 1st Lt. Justin Hendricks, co-pilot, 1st Lt. Ed Woodward, navigator, Master Sgt. Dennis Vaughn, mission supervisor, Master Sgt. Tom Hewitt, boom operator, Tech. Sgt. Tony Yake, crew chief, Staff Sgt. Denim Beeler,

boom operator, and others responded when a call came from Southern Command, informing the crew that a large fire was burning aboard the Eli.

KC-135 crewmembers who did not fly on the rescue mission, stayed in Manta to relay information to those responding to the distressed Eli.

The blaze left its 27 crewmembers stranded for eight long hours in a skiff, a small emergency boat, about 800 miles or more from the Galapagos Islands.

“We were on our way back from a refueling mission, and we were told by our air traffic control people to land for an operational mission.”

“We were on our way back from a refueling mission, and we were told by our air traffic control people to land for an operational mission.”

Maj. Ron Dancy
mission commander

Equador provided 140,000 pounds of JP8 to fuel the KC-135s for the mission.

With an interpreter and crew

chiefs on board, Black Knights flew southwest to the last known coordinates of the boat's last known location. According to 19th ARG reports, contact with air traffic control agencies was lost, but KC-135 crewmembers continued the mission undeterred.

Black Knights were assigned to cover all windows of the KC-135, searching for any sign of the burning boat in the water below, as Navigator, 2nd Lt. Ed Woodward, was using the on-board weather radar to search the water's surface, Dancy said.

Hendricks established radio contact with the U.S Coast Guard Headquarters, in Point Reyes, Calif. – the coordinating agency for the search and rescue operation – and relayed important information and maintained open lines of communication.

See RESCUE...Page 2

RESCUE

Continued from Page 1

Dancy said the Eli’s skiff was floating between a large transport ship and the burning boat.

Black Knights bridged the lines of communication between the Spanish-speaking fishermen and the English-speaking ship crew.

The Eli crew was reportedly in good condition, given food, water, and treated for minor injuries.

Col. Barbara Faulkenberry, 19th Air Refueling Group commander, said the Black Knight team’s response in the Eli mission reflects positively on the airmen.

“The team response to this challenge speaks very well of the leadership, initiative, and ‘can-do’ spirit of our airmen,” she said. “They were presented with a unique, life-threatening challenge for those mariners in distress. Aircrew, maintainers, and support personnel responded quickly and safely as a team to ultimately contribute to rescue of the ship’s crew.”

Woodward said the rescue gave members of the 19th Air Refueling Group the opportunity to get involved in a real-world mission, and prove they can meet even the most unexpected challenges.

“This mission showed how well we can work together to accomplish a task,” he said. “It proved to many of us that no one person could be successful in this sort of mission. It takes a team effort.”

Faulkenberry said while air refueling is what the 19th Air Refueling Group does day-to-day, the Eli mission affirms the flexibility and leadership that is inherent in their entire force.

“This mission showed how well we can work together to accomplish a task. It proved to many of us that no one person could be successful in this sort of mission. It takes a team effort.”

1st Lt. Ed Woodward
Navigator



Members of the aircrew that assisted in the Eli rescue mission are from left to right, front row: 1st Lt. Ed Woodward and 1st Lt. Justin Hendricks. Back row, Master Sgt. Tom Hewitt, Maj. Ronald Dancy, and Staff Sgt. Denim Beeler. Not pictured: Maj. Robert Martin, Tech Sgt. Tony Yake, Staff Sgt. Michael Orman, and Airman 1st Class Michael Harrington

From the round table



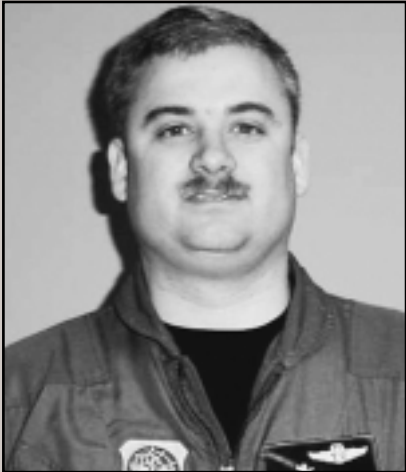
Airman 1st Class Christopher Clair

Clair is assigned to the 19th OSS as an intelligence apprentice. He has been in the Air Force since Sept. 17, 2001, and is working toward a degree in Political Science. His favorite quote is, “Everything is funny as long as it is happening to someone else.”



Senior Airman Robert McGuire

McGuire is assigned to the 19th MXS as an aircraft electrical and environmental systems journeyman. He has been in the Air Force since Nov. 10, 1998, and his goal is to continue to become more experienced in his career field. McGuire says, “The most damaging phrase in the language is, “it has always been done that way.”



Tech Sgt. Mark Yandell

Yandell is assigned to the 99th ARS as a boom operator. He has been in the Air Force since March 7, 1986, and his goal is to retire from the Air Force. His favorite personal quote is, “To be successful at what you do, you must enjoy it.”



Senior Airman Terry Brown

Brown is assigned to the 99th ARS as a boom operator. He has been in the Air Force since Feb. 8, 2000, and his goal is to graduate CFIC. His favorite quote is, “So is life.”